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THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF CALIFORNIA¹

For many years California was among the regions of North America of which anthropologists knew least. The early traveler touched it, the missionary occasionally left a valuable but fragmentary record, and the resident at times described the native people who were thrown under his observation. But the anthropologist and the trained investigator sought other fields of exploration, and the fact that extensive archeological collections had been formed from one restricted region contributed very little to a knowledge of the general anthropology of the state. Of recent years these conditions have been entirely altered. Several institutions have formed systematic collections or carried on researches, until now the anthropology of the region is nearly as well known as that of most parts of the continent, and certainly presents less obscurities than some. It seems fitting, therefore, to undertake at this time a review of the principal results of study, and of the new problems that these results inevitably open up. It might seem that the student of aboriginal people should be little concerned with the arbitrary limits of a modern political division such as the present state of California. As a fact, however, these limits coincide so nearly with the natural physiographical and ethnographical boundaries, that the artificiality of such a limitation, in an

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¹Address of the retiring vice-president of Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the Chicago meeting, 1907-8.